

IN THE CLAIMS

1. (original) A bracket for engaging one or more struts comprising a body portion and one or more arm portions extending from the body portion, wherein the arm portions include:
 - at least one pair of parallel grooves adapted to releaseably engage complementary lips of the strut; and
 - at least one recessed region adapted to securely engage one or more crimped portions of the strut.
2. (original) A bracket according to claim 1, wherein the respective grooves and at least one recessed region are arranged to co-operate with a strut in the form of a U-shaped channel member comprising a base, opposing sidewalls and lips extending from each sidewall into the interior of the channel member towards the base such that a U-shaped channel portion is defined by each lip and sidewall.
3. (original) A bracket according to claim 1, wherein the respective grooves and at least one recessed region are arranged to co-operate with a strut in the form of a C-shaped channel member comprising a base, opposing sidewalls and lips extending from each sidewall into the interior of the channel member towards the opposing sidewall such that a U-shaped channel portion is defined by each lip, sidewall and the base.
4. (currently amended) A bracket according to any of ~~claims 1 to 3~~ claim 1, wherein the body portion comprises an upper face, lower face and side faces.
5. (original) A bracket according to claim 4, wherein the one or more arm portions extend perpendicularly from the side faces of the body portion.
6. (original) A bracket according to claim 5, wherein the bracket is I-shaped comprising two

arm portions extending perpendicularly from two opposing side faces of the body portion.

7. (original) A bracket according to claim 5, wherein the bracket is L-shaped comprising two arm portions extending perpendicularly from two adjacent side faces of the body portion.
8. (currently amended) A bracket according to claim 5, wherein the bracket is T-shaped comprising three arm portions extending perpendicularly from three side faces of the body portion.
9. (currently amended) A bracket according to claim 5, wherein the bracket is cross-shaped comprising four arm portions extending perpendicularly from four side faces of the body portion.
10. (currently amended) A bracket according to ~~any preceding claims~~ claim 9, wherein an arm portion extends perpendicularly from the upper face and/or lower face of the body portion.
11. (currently amended) A bracket according to ~~any preceding claims~~ claim 10, wherein the one or more arm portions comprise an upper face, lower face, opposing end faces and opposing side faces.
12. (original) A bracket according to claim 11, wherein two grooves extend longitudinally in parallel alignment along the upper face of the one or more arm portions.
13. (currently amended) A bracket according to claim ~~11 or~~ 12, wherein two grooves extend longitudinally in parallel alignment along the lower face of the one or more arm portions.
14. (currently amended) A bracket according to ~~any of claims 11 to~~ claim 13, wherein first and second grooves are arranged to extend longitudinally in parallel alignment along respective

opposing side faces of the one or more arm portions.

15. (currently amended) A bracket according to ~~any of claims 12 to~~ claim 14 ~~when depending from claim 2 or 3~~, wherein each groove defines one or more protruding portions that extend longitudinally along the respective faces of the arm portions and which grooves are adapted to be received and engaged by the U-shaped channel portions of the lips.
16. (original) A bracket according to claim 15 wherein the protruding portions of the one or more arm portions comprise one or more recessed regions to receive and securely engage one or more crimped portions of the lips.
17. (currently amended) A bracket according to claim 11 ~~when depending from claim 4 or any of claims 12 to 16 when depending from both claim 11 and 4~~, wherein the upper face of the one or more arm portion comprises one or more recessed regions to receive and securely engage one or more crimped portions of the base of the strut.
18. (currently amended) A bracket according to claim 11 ~~when depending from claim 4 or any of claims 12 to 17 when depending from both claims 11 and 4~~, wherein the lower face of the one or more arm portions comprises one or more recessed regions to receive and securely engage one or more crimped portions of the base of the strut.
19. (currently amended) A bracket according to claim 11 ~~when depending from claim 4 or any of claims 12 to 18 when depending on claims 11 and 4~~, wherein the opposing side faces of the one or more arm portions comprise one or more recessed regions to receive and securely engage one or more crimped portions of the opposing sidewalls of the strut
20. (currently amended) A bracket according to claim ~~4 or any of claims 5 to~~ 19 ~~when depending on claim 4~~, wherein the body portion comprises one or more apertures extending

from the upper face to the lower face.

21. (currently amended) A bracket according to ~~any of claims 11 or any of claims 12 to claim 20 when depending on claim 11~~, wherein the one or more arm portions comprise one or more apertures extending from the upper face to the lower face and adapted to be aligned with one or more apertures of an engaged strut.

22. (currently amended) A method of engaging a bracket as defined in ~~any of claims 1 to claim 21~~ and a strut, the method comprising the steps of:
mounting the strut on the arm portion by locating the complementary lips of the strut in the grooves of the arm portion; **and**
securing the strut on the arm portion by crimping one or more portions of the strut into one or more recessed regions of the arm portion.

23. (original) A method according to claim 22 further comprising the steps of:
inserting a first portion of the lips into the respective grooves of the strut; and
sliding the lips along the length of the grooves until the strut abuts the body portion and the lips are received and releasably engaged by the grooves.

24. (original) A method according to claim 23 further comprising the steps of:
inserting a first portion of the protruding portions into the respective U-shaped channel portions of the struts; and
sliding the protruding portions along the length of the U-shaped channel portions whilst the lips slide along the length of the grooves until the strut abuts the body portion and the protruding portions are received and releasably engaged by the U-shaped channel portions.

25. (currently amended) A method according to ~~any of claims 22 to~~ claim 24 further comprising the step of crimping one or more portions of the strut into one or more recessed regions using a crimping system comprising one or more hydraulic rams having a shaping tool for deforming and thereby securely locating the one or more crimped portions in the one or more recessed regions.
26. (currently amended) A method according to ~~any of claims 22 to~~ claim 25 further comprising the step of crimping one or more portions of the lips of the strut into one or more recessed regions on the protruding portions of the arm portion.
27. (currently amended) A method according to ~~any of claims 22 to~~ claim 26 further comprising the step of crimping one or more portions of the base of the strut into one or more recessed regions on the upper face of the arm portion.
28. (currently amended) A method according to ~~any of claims 22 to~~ claim 26 further comprising the step of crimping one or more portions of the base of the strut into one or more recessed regions on the lower face of the arm portion.
29. (currently amended) A method according to ~~any of claims 22 to~~ claim 28 further comprising the step of crimping one or more portions of the opposing sidewalls of the strut into one or more recessed regions on the opposing side faces of the arm portion.
30. (currently amended) A method according to ~~any of claims 22 to~~ claim 29 further comprising the step of simultaneously crimping one or more portions of the strut into one or more recessed regions of the side faces of the arm portion.
31. (canceled) A method of engaging a bracket as defined in any of claims 1 to 21 and a plurality

of struts comprising the method of repeating any of the method steps of claims 22 to 30 to mount and secure a strut on each arm portion.

32. (canceled) A method according to claim 31 comprising the step of simultaneously crimping one or more portions of the struts into the one or more recessed regions of the each arm portion.

33. (currently amended) A frame comprising a plurality of brackets as defined in ~~any of claims 1 to~~ claim 21 and a plurality of engageable struts.

34. (original) A frame comprising a plurality of brackets and engageable struts, the bracket comprising a body portion and one or more arm portions extending from the body portion, wherein the one or more arm portions include:

at least one pair of parallel grooves adapted to releaseably engage complementary lips of the strut; and

at least one recessed region adapted to securely engage one or more crimped portions of the strut.

35. (currently amended) A frame according to ~~either claim 33 or~~ claim 34 for supporting building services.

36. (currently amended) A method of constructing a frame according to ~~any of claims 33 to~~ claim 35, the method comprising the steps of contemporaneously or sequentially mounting and securing respective struts to arm portions of the brackets to form a frame structure.

37. (currently amended) A method according to claim 36 ~~comprising the method of repeating any of the method steps of claims 22 to 29~~ to mount and secure a strut on each arm portion

of a bracket.

38. (original) A method according to claim 37 comprising the step of simultaneously crimping one or more portions of the struts into one or more recessed regions of the arm portions of one or more brackets.

Claims 39-43 canceled.